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Policies and Benefits

Firearm storage policy

The agency's firearms storage policy as outlined in Administrative Directive (AD) 02.95 is being revised to reflect the procedures described below, but note the new procedures are effective immediately.

The Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) requires that all persons carrying a firearm safely secure the firearm and ammunition prior to entering a TDCJ facility.

Immediately after parking or while stopped at the first security checkpoint, whichever occurs first, a person licensed to carry a handgun under Subchapter H, Chapter 411, Government Code, or an employee otherwise authorized to possess a firearm shall unload and secure the firearm and ammunition in a:

1. Locked weapons box in a locked vehicle;
2. Locked compartment of a locked vehicle;

3. Trunk of a locked vehicle with a locking device attached to the firearm; or
4. Locked vehicle with the firearm concealed from view and a locking device attached to the firearm.



Law enforcement officers shall unload and secure any firearms and ammunition in a locked compartment of a vehicle; or if entering the TDCJ compound, the law en-

forcement officers shall unload and secure firearms and ammunition in any other TDCJ-authorized location.

Bill Stephens, director of the Correctional Institutions Division, noted the new procedures primarily affect employees, saying, "A person with a valid concealed handgun license, a law enforcement officer, or an employee otherwise authorized to possess a firearm may properly store a firearm secured in their vehicle. Individuals who do not fall into one of these categories do not have this option."

Stephens also cited the critical need for continued vigilance, adding, "It is very important that we continue to remind ourselves that all vehicles are required to be secured while on state property. If a vehicle is found unsecured, please report the matter to your unit warden or department supervisor." ●